

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PFOR, NL, GW, US

SUBJECT: DUTCH INQUIRY RE US-FRG ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENT

REF: THE HAGUE 2807

1. EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON FOLLOWING IN RESPONDING TO MFA
INQUIRY RE US-FRG ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT:

2. SINCE 1966 THE US AND FRG HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN A CO-
OPERATIVE PROGRAM IN NATURAL RESOURCES (UGNR) WHICH, INTER
ALIA, INCLUDED PANELS ON WATER POLLUTION, AIR POLLUTION,
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NOISE ABATEMENT, AND SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL. THE FRG COORDI-

NATING AGENCY, THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO PERFORM ITS ROLE FOR THE ENTIRE PROGRAM SINCE MANY OF ITS ASPECTS WERE NOT MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES. THE FRG PROPOSED IN 1973 THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS LISTED ABOVE BE SEPARATED OUT OF UGNR AND INCLUDED IN A BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED ON MAY 9, 1974, IN BONN IS AN UMBRELLA-TYPE ACCORD EMBRACING AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED UNDER UGNR. IT PROVIDES A BETTER FRAMEWORK FOR SUCH CO-OPERATION THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE UNDER UGNR. THE US BELIEVES THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL ASSIST EPA IN DEALING WITH DOMESTIC POLLUTION PROBLEMS THROUGH BENEFITING FROM GERMAN EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR AREAS.

3. ON FEBRUARY 7, CHRISTIAN A. HERTER, JR., SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, INFORMED CARPENTIER OF EC COMMISSION'S DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (STATE 027879 TO BONN, INFO USEC BRUSSELS) OF STATUS OF THE THEN-PROPOSED ACCORD WITH THE FRG. CARPENTIER SAID FRG LEGALLY REQUIRED TO CONSULT WITH EC COMMISSION ON PROPOSED AGREEMENT BEFORE SIGNING. WE ASSUME THAT THIS WAS DONE.

4. ON MAY 14 EPA ADMINISTRATOR TRAIN CALLED ON GON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH MINISTER VORRINK AND PROVIDED HER WITH COPY OF AGREEMENT. ATTENDING LUNCHEON GIVEN ON MAY 14 FOR MR. TRAIN BY MRS. VORRINK AND STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BRINKHORST WERE VAN SCHAIK AND ITALIANER OF MFA. NONE OF ABOVE-MENTIONED INDIVIDUALS EVIDENCED CONCERN OVER SIGNING OF US-FRG ACCORD WHICH WAS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED.

5. USG HAS CONDUCTED PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPAN RE BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE COMPARABLE TO US-FRG BILATERAL AND SERVE SIMILAR PURPOSES. HOWEVER, LACK OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT HAS NOT INHIBITED US-JAPAN COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD AND, IN GENERAL, WE DO NOT CONSIDER FORMAL BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AS NECESSARY FOR DEALING WITH SPECIFIC TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

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6. WE DID NOT ADVISE THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OF THE IMPENDING AGREEMENT WITH THE FRG. OUR ACTION WITH EC COMMISSION'S CARPENTIER PROVIDED NOTIFICATION WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN PASSED TO ALL EC MEMBER COUNTRIES. THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS AGREEMENT AND DRAFT ATLANTIC DECLARATION.

7. THE REPORT THAT US AND PRC HAVE SIGNED AN ENVIRONMENTAL
AGREEMENT IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION. BROWN

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